

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 MC-02 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 /075 W

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R 080415Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7444

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

JCS WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 4135

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJ: GENERAL BROWN MEETING WITH GENERAL PANGGABEAN

1. SUMMARY: IN INITIAL PRIVATE MEETING APRIL 7 WITH
CHAIRMAN CHIEFS JOINT BROWN, INDONESIAN MINISTER DEFENSE
PANGGABEAN STRESSED NEED FOR INDONESIA TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY
BOTH WITHIN ITSELF AND WITHIN ASEAN CONTEXT, EXPRESSED HOPE
FOR CONTINUING US MILITARY AID AND RAISED SPECIFICALLY
QUESTION OF SHIPS. END SUMMARY

2. IN WELCOMING GENERAL BROWN IN PRIVATE MEETING IN
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, GENERAL PANGGABEAN SAID THAT PRIMARY
INDONESIAN OBJECTIVE WAS CREATION OF "NATIONAL RESILIENCE."
AMEMBASSADOR NEWSOM AND GENERAL SURONO, INDONESIAN DEPUTY
CHIEF OF STAFF, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

3. GENERAL PANGGABEAN DESCRIBED NATIONAL RESILIENCE AS
INDONESIA'S CAPABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF THROUGH ITS OWN
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WILL AND RESOURCES. THIS WAS BECOMING AN EVEN MORE

CRITICAL NECESSITY AS EVENTS DEVELOPED IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. INDONESIA SAW NECESSITY NOT ONLY TO STRENGTHEN ITSELF BUT TO WORK CLOSELY WITH OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES. BILATERAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES ALREADY EXISTED BETWEEN INDONESIA, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA. THAILAND AND MALAYSIA ALSO COOPERATED BILATERALLY.

4. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER EVENTS IN INDOCHINA WOULD LEAD INDONESIA TO STRENGTHEN ITS TIES WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, GENERAL PANGGABEAN SAID THAT INDONESIA HAD LONG TIES WITH THESE COUNTRIES AND THAT THEY HAD RECENTLY BEEN STRENGTHENED FOR ECONOMIC PURPOSES. COMMITTEE WITHIN INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, MONITORS SUCH ACTIVITIES CLOSELY AND SEEKS TO DISCOURAGE CULTURAL AND OTHER EXCHANGES WHICH MIGHT HAVE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

5. GENERAL PANGGABEAN SAID THAT NATURALLY PROSPECT OF COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN INDOCHINA CREATES VERY REAL CONCERN IN INDONESIA. INDONESIANS HOPED, HOWEVER, AND WERE INCLINED TO BELIEVE, THAT COMMUNISTS IN INDOCHINA WERE AS MUCH NATIONALISTS AS COMMUNISTS. IF THIS WAS CASE, RELATIONS WITH THEM OVER LONGER TERM WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

6. EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR US AID, GENERAL PANGGABEAN STRESSED THAT IN PRESENT SITUATION CONTINUATION OF SUCH AID PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT FOR INDONESIA. INDONESIA PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HELP THROUGH SALES OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT. INDONESIAN MISSION HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN WASHINGTON TO INVESTIGATE PURCHASE OF SHIPS BUT COST WAS BEYOND WHAT INDONESIA COULD AFFORD. HE HOPED GENERAL BROWN COULD ENCOURAGE FURTHER SALES OF SHIPS OUT OF US INVENTORY SUCH AS IN THE CASE OF FOUR DES. AMBASSADOR NEWSOM INTERJECTED THAT WE DID NOT CONSIDER DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE SALE OF NEW SHIPS FINISHED AND WERE PREPARED TO EXAMINE ALTERNATIVES ON BASIS OF FEASIBILITY STUDY. GENERAL BROWN PROMISED TO LOOK INTO SHIP PROBLEM. NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART04135
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750121-0090
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750472/aaaacnxq.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL BROWN MEETING WITH GENERAL PANGGABEAN
TAGS: MASS, US, ID, (PANGGABEAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006